

Writing Assignment #2

More practice with close, generative reading.

- 1) Copy two passages, each of 50 words or less, at least one from *King Solomon's Mines* and the other either from the novel, "Realism and Romance," or *The Dialogic Imagination*. As before, this copying is part of the assignment—notice details as you go. Leave nice big margins around the edges. Use as many pieces of paper as you'd like.

Like last time, try to find two passages that relate to one another in an interesting, complicated way. If you choose two passages from KSM, make sure they relate in a dynamic way such as involving different aspects of storytelling (i.e. description vs. dialogue), opposing activities, shared key words, a development in a theme, etc. If you choose a passage from Lang or Bakhtin, choose one from KSM that illuminates, reworks, or resists the critical paradigm.

- 2) Take notes on the page about the passages, noticing interesting words or phrases, ways they connect or differ from one another, and so on. Make lists, however you want to define them. Go word by word, sentence by sentence, simply slowing down and noticing interesting things. Just like last time, when you find something interesting, turn it into a question: is this part of a pattern?
- 3) Write for 15 minutes about how the two passages speak to one another. Use data from your marking-up of the passages. You might try playfully trying to link two apparently unconnected bits of data from your textual analysis, and just see how you can bring them together. Think on your (writing) feet, move quickly, discover as you go. You don't need to use full sentences or paragraphs. Once again, you can repeat this step if you'd like.

There's no need to generate new ideas at this stage. Instead, say something about what you discovered in the earlier parts of the process. Draw connections, speculate, ask questions and propose answers, and so on.

Feel free to mention other moments in the novel or supplemental readings, passages you didn't focus on in your textual analysis. But try to stick close to all your good, precise data, seeing what you can do as you work with it, rather than pulling back to more general ideas or arguments.

- 4) Draft an outline for a hypothetical paper based on your discoveries and insights. The outline should include:
 - a. A single-sentence thesis statement that makes an interpretive claim about the passages
 - b. A topic sentence for each paragraph
 - c. Brief indication of the evidence to be considered in each paragraph.

You'll hand in the page with your passages and notes, your rush-write(s), and your outline.